

the network interface including an automatic flow control mechanism for automatically controlling a flow of data from the network medium based on availability of the receive buffers,

*B1
Cont*

wherein in a first flow control mode initiated when a flow control mode signal is at a first logic level, the automatic flow control mechanism is configured to respond to a shortage of the receive buffers by automatically requesting a remote transmitter coupled to the network medium to suspend data transmission until a predetermined number of the receive buffers is available, and

in a second flow control mode initiated when the flow control mode signal is at a second logic level, the automatic flow control mechanism is configured to respond to a shortage of the receive buffers by automatically requesting the remote transmitter coupled to the network medium to suspend data transmission for a predetermined time.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the network interface comprises a descriptor management unit for managing receive descriptors pointing to the receive buffers.

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice and disclaimer.